# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: Brooks Methodist Episcopal Church Inventory Number: 86B-5 Address: 15601 Brooks Church Road City: Upper Marlboro Zip Code: 20772 County: Prince Georges USGS Topographic Map: Lower Marlboro, MD (Photorevised 1979) Trustees of the Nottingham-Meyers United Methodist Church, 15601 Brooks Church Road, Owner: Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 Tax Parcel Number: 56 Tax Map Number: Map 148 Tax Account 1D Number: 0250878 Project: Cellular Communications Tower Agency: Site visit by MHT Staff: X no \_\_\_yes Name: \_\_\_\_ Date: Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended X A B X C DConsiderations: \_\_\_A \_\_B \_\_C \_\_D \_\_E \_\_F \_\_G \_\_None Criteria: Is the property located within a historic district? X no \_\_\_\_yes Name of district: \_\_\_\_ Is district listed? \_\_\_no \_\_\_yes Determined eligible? \_\_\_no \_\_\_yes District Inventory Number: Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo) The Brooks Methodist Episcopal Church is a representative example of a mid-twentieth century church and associated resources which have been sympathetically adapted to address the spiritual and social needs of its late twentieth and early twenty first century congregation. The Brooks Methodist Episcopal Church is eligible for listing in the National Register. under Criterion A for its continued association with the growth and development of this congregation from the immediate post-Civil War era to the present day. The resource is also eligible for National Register listing under Criterion C as a wellpreserved example of a rural vernacular church which reflects the spiritual and social aspirations of its African-American congregation. This determination has been made in accordance with the National Register Bulletin entitled "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation" (National Park Service 1998). MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended Criteria: Considerations: \_\_\_A\_\_B\_\_C D E Comments: Office of Preservation Services Date

Reviewer, NR program

V-entered

Date

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Communication Sheet No. 1	PG: 86B-5

Date Prepared: September 21, 2001

Prepared by:

Joseph Schuchman

PG: 86B-5

#### III. HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Brooks Methodist Episcopal Church consists of a mid-twentieth century frame church (Photographs 1, 2, 3, and 4), an adjacent cemetery (Photograph 5) and, at the present time, the foundation and burnt remains of a 1952 social hall (Photograph 6) which was destroyed by fire in April 2001. Figure 2 illustrates a site plan of the church property and photograph locations.

In 1867, John H. Skinner, a prominent landowner, deeded one acre of his farm to five black men, identified as the trustees of the Colored Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, for the purpose of establishing a Methodist Church and a schoolhouse for black children. A small log meeting house was soon constructed. The labor and materials for this building were donated by the men of the church and the community. Frames, sashes and flooring were provided by the Freedmen's Bureau, an organization established by Congress on March 3, 1865 for the purpose of assisting black communities establishing schools and hospitals. The building simultaneously served as the area's first schoolhouse for black children and as a place of worship, which came to be known as Brooks Church in honor of the family of Nathaniel Brooks, one of the original trustees (Pearl; Nottingham-Myers United Methodist Church web site).

The log building was replaced by a frame structure which was completed in 1889 (MNCPPC: 104).

Under the pastorship of Frederick Myers, a sanctuary, which forms the core of the present church, was constructed. The new house of worship was completed and dedicated debt free in September 1939. In 1955, the church was renamed Brooks-Myers Methodist Church in honor of Reverend Myers. In 1968, Brooks Church and St. Mary's Church merged and became Myers United Methodist Church. In 1983, a south addition, which includes a choir/conference room and a pastor's study, was completed (MNCPPC: 104; Nottingham-Myers United Methodist Church web site). This new construction successfully replicates decorative details and complements the historic church structure. In recent years, the congregation adopted the name Nottingham-Myers United Methodist Church. At the present time, the rebuilding of the social hall is in the planning stage.

The Brooks Methodist Episcopal Church is a simply but handsomely detailed structure. The site continues to evolve to meet the congregation's needs yet remains an enduring symbol of the faith of its members.

#### IV. NATIONAL REGISTER DETERMINATION

The MHT has requested a Determination of Eligibility for the Brooks Methodist Episcopal Church. The church had previously been included in two studies, a historic resource inventory of Prince George's County, which was conducted in 1983 by the MNCPPC, and a survey of African-American related resources, which was initiated by the MNCPPC in 1994. A MHT National Register DOE Form was completed for the Brooks Methodist Episcopal Church and is included as Appendix D.

The Brooks Methodist Episcopal Church is a representative example of a mid-twentieth century church and associated resources which have been sympathetically adapted to address the spiritual and social needs of its late twentieth and early twenty first century congregation. The Brooks Methodist Episcopal Church is eligible for listing in the *National Register* under Criterion A for its continued association with the growth and development of this congregation from the immediate post-Civil War era to the present day. The resource is also eligible for National Register listing under Criterion C as a well-preserved example of a rural vernacular church of the mid twentieth century with a late twentieth century addition which continues to reflect the spiritual and social aspirations of its African-American congregation. This determination has been made in accordance with the National Register Bulletin entitled "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation" (National Park Service 1998).

The proposed National Register boundary encompasses the current 4.77-acre tax parcel. The boundary includes the church, cemetery, the site of two earlier church structures and the land which has historically been associated with the congregation.

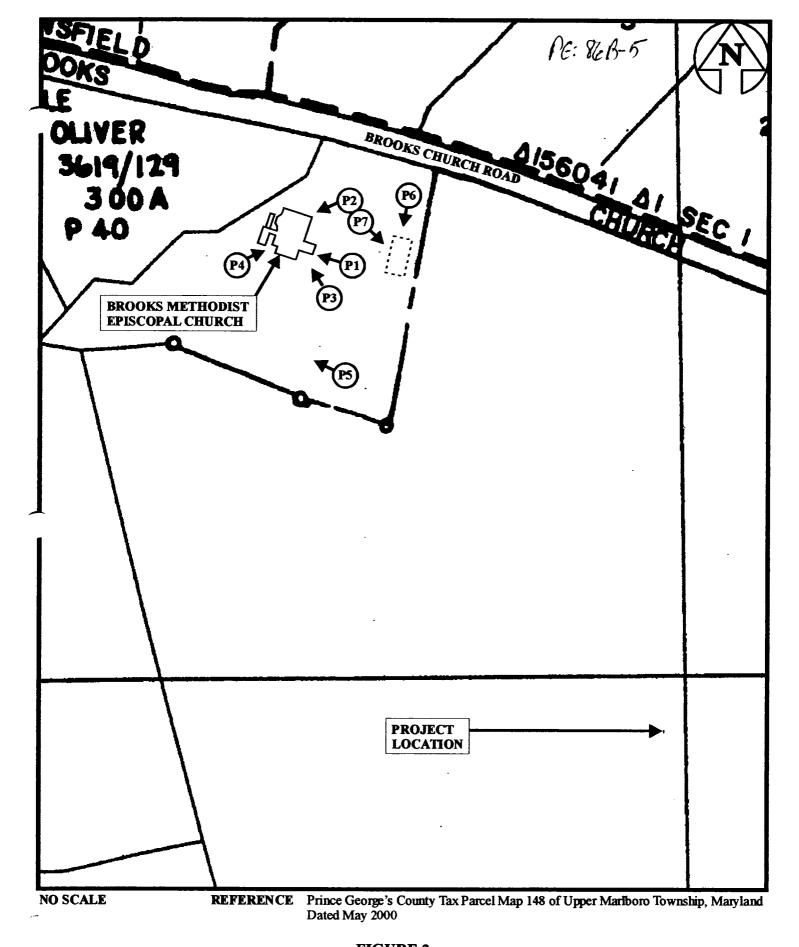


FIGURE 2
SITE PLAN / PHOTOGRAPH LOCATION MAP
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY REPORT / DUVALL COMMUNICATIONS CELL TOWER

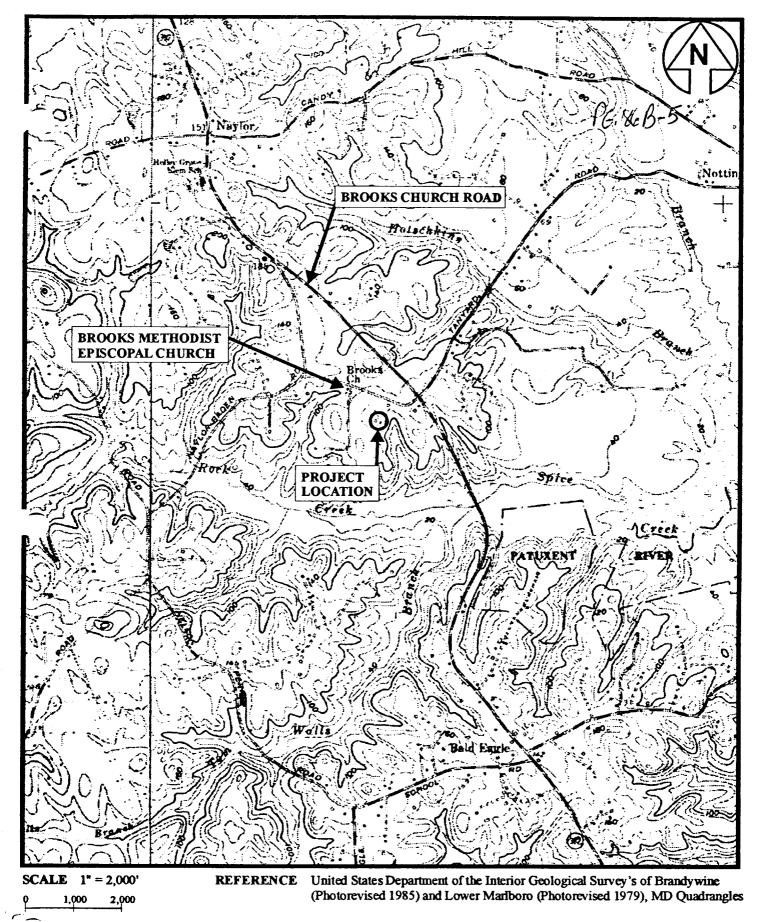


FIGURE 1 PROJECT LOCATION MAP

**SPRINT PCS / DUVALL PROPERTY 711F** 

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form Upper Marlboro, Prince Georges County

Inventory No.:

6: 86E

86B-5

## **PHOTOGRAPH INFORMATION**



PHOTOGRAPH 1
View looking west at Brooks Methodist Episcopal Church (front elevation) (July 2001).

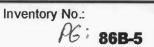


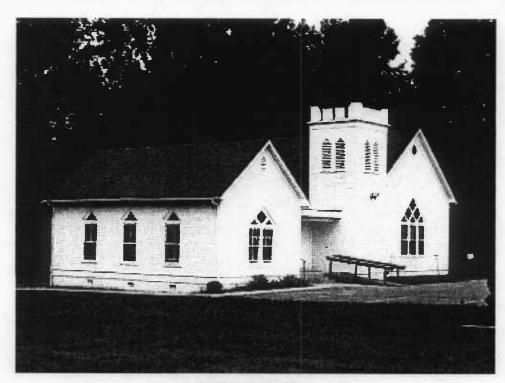
PHOTOGRAPH 2
View looking southwest at Brooks Methodist Episcopal Church (front and north elevations) (July 2001).

**Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form** 

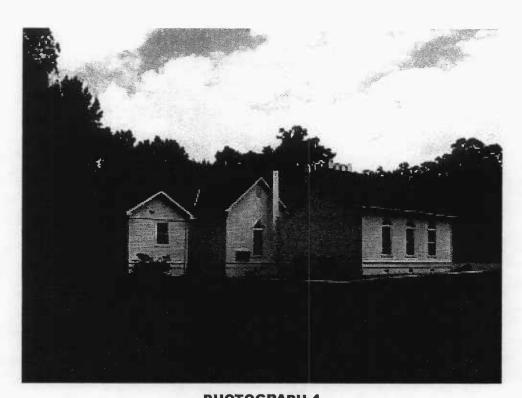
Upper Marlboro, Prince Georges County

## **PHOTOGRAPH INFORMATION**





PHOTOGRAPH 3
View looking northwest at Brooks Methodist Episcopal Church
(1938 sanctuary to right and 1983 addition to left of entrance) (July 2001).



PHOTOGRAPH 4

View looking northeast at Brooks Methodist Episcopal Church (south and west rear elevations) (July 2001).

**Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form** 

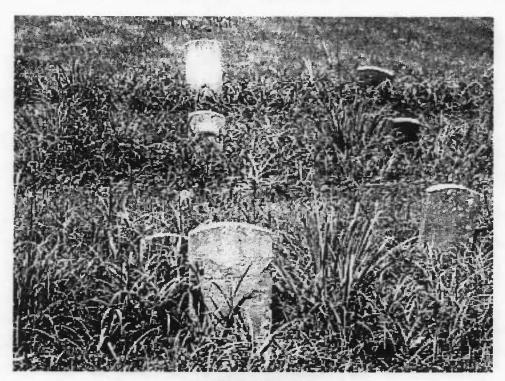
Upper Marlboro, Prince Georges County

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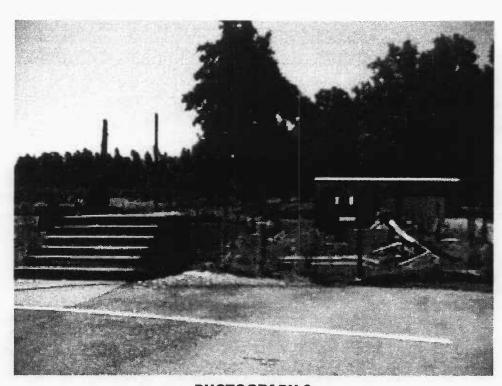
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6B-5

## PHOTOGRAPH INFORMATION



PHOTOGRAPH 5
View looking west at cemetery for Brooks Methodist Episcopal Church (July 2001).



PHOTOGRAPH 6
View looking south at ruins of social hall of Brooks Methodist Episcopal Church (July 2001).

P.G. #86B-5 Brooks (Myers) Methodist Church 15601 Brooks Church Road, Baden, Md. Priv/Occ/Relig/Excellent

1867/1939

Brooks-Myers Church is a four bay gable-roofed frame building in Italianate style, its principal facade being the east gable end. This gable end has a tri-partite window with multi-light triangular pediment; entrance is through a double-door in a crenellated tower set at the southeast corner of the building. To the east of the church is a large frame social-educational building, and to the south, an old and extensive graveyard.

In 1867, John H. Skinner deeded one-acre of his farm to five Black trustees for the purpose of establishing a Methodist Church and schoolhouse for Black children. afterwards, a small log church was constructed; it came to be known as Brooks Church in honor of the family of Nathaniel Brooks, one of the original trustees. the years, Brooks became a vital rural Black congregation; some of its strongest members, e.g., the Brooks and the Pinkneys, are buried in the graveyard. In 1939, a new church, the present Italianate structure, was built, and the old log chapel was destroyed. In its place, a large frame educational building was erected in the 1940's. Brooks Church has since 1955 come to be known as Brooks-Myers Church, in honor of Rev. Frederick Myers, pastor for 25 years, under whose leadership the new church was built. Brooks-Myers Church is significant because it is a rare example of twentieth century Italianate Church architecture in a remote rural area, and because it represents well over a century of the society and culture of a rural Black community.

Magi No. 1704714808

## DOE \_\_yes \_\_no

## Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Nan	findicate n	referred name)		
istoric B	rooks United Met	hodist Church		
nd/or common	Myers United Me	thodist Church		
2. Loc	ation			
street & numbe	r 15601 Brooks	Church Road		_ not for publication
city, town	Baden	Naylor vicinity of	congressional district	4
state M	aryland	county	Prince George	
3. Clas	ssification			
Category district _X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered not_applicable	Status  X occupied  unoccupied  work in progress  Accessible  X yes: restricted  yes: unrestricted  no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence X religious scientific transportation other:Black Hist
4. Ow	ner of Prope	erty (give names an	nd mailing addresses	s of <u>all</u> owners)
name V	estry of Myers	U. M. Church		
street & numbe			telephone no	) <b>.:</b>
	Baden		and zip code	
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courthouse, re		G. Co. Courthouse		
street & number	er Main Street			folio
city, town	Upper Marlboro		State	Md. 20772
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date	1974		federal stat	te X countylocal
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	Riverdale,			Md. 20737
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## 7. Description

Survey No.PG#86B-5

Condition       Check one         X excellent       deteriorated       unaltered       original site         good       ruins       altered       moved       date of move         fair       unexposed	
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Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Brooks-Myers U.M. Church is an A-roofed Italianate frame building, its principal facade being the east gable end. This gable end has a tri-part window with multilight triangular pedemint; entrance is through a double door in an Italianate crenellated tower set at the south east corner of the building. The side walls are four bays wide with triangular-pedemented windows. There is an interior chimney between first and second bay in the south slope of the roof, and a small ell-addition at the rear (southwest) corner of the church.

There is a five-bay gable-roofed frame social-educational building to the east of the entrance lane, and an old and extensive graveyard to the south.

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8.	Significance

Survey No PG #86B-5

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Specific	dates	1939	Builder/Architect	
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Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

In 1867, John H. Skinner, prominent farmer in the Nottingham area, deeded one acre of his farm "Mansfield" to five black trustees for the purpose of establishing a Methodist church and a schoolhouse for Black children. Soon afterwards, a small log church building was constructed; it came to be known as Brooks Church in honor of the family of Nathaniel Brooks, one of the original trustees. Over the years, Brooks became a strong vital rural Black congregation; some of its strongest members, e.g., the Brooks and the Pinkneys, are buried in the large graveyard behind the church.

In 1939, a new church, the present Italianate structure was built, and the original log church was destroyed. Very close to where the original church stood, a large frame educational building was erected in the early 1940's.

The pastor of Brooks Methodist Church (and also of St. Mary's Methodist Church in Croom) for over 25 years was Reverend Frederick Myers. The new church was built during his tenure, and after his retirement in 1955, was renamed in his honor.

Brooks-Myers is significant, not only because it is a rare example of 20th century Italianate Church architecture in a remote rural area, but because it reflects well over a century of the society and culture of a rural Black community. The names on the gravestones in the Brooks-Myers cemetery are those of some of the longest-standing Black families in southeastern Prince George's County.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#86B-5

P. G. County Deeds FS #5:161

10. Geographica	al Data		
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11. Form Prepar	ed By		
name/title Susan G. Pearl			
organization History Divisi	on, M-NCPPC		date Feb.1983
street & number 4811 Riverd	ale Rd.	5,3 5,5	telephone 779-2011
city or town Riverdale,	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		state Maryland 20737

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

# NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

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		AND/OR HISTORICE					
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The church is an A-roofed, frame building with a gable end facade. On the south corner is a crenelated entrance tower with a two story elevation. The gable window has a triangular head and a diamond-shaped window in the gable. The sidewalls have four triangular pedimented windows. The semi-hexagonal apse has windows on each side.

Pre-Calumbian 15th Century	☐ 16th Century ☐ 17th Century	☐ 18th Century ☐ 19th Century	20th Century
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	e and Known) 1938;	site of 19th	century building
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Prince Georges - 86B-23 PG:86B-5 Nottingham-Myers Charge (Myers U.M. Church) Croom Rd. Naylor, MD

1879

The original chapel was destroyed in the 1950's and the present Italianate structure dates from that era. The first black Methodist Church built in this area (by ex-slaves) was demolished when Rte. 382 was enlarged. A chapel was built on this site in 1879. This small Methodist Church has survived the attacks of hostile white groups and politicians to become a vital rural congregation. Myer U.M. Church has had many names, among them are Johnson's Chapel and Nottingham.

PG 86B-5 86B-2 86B-2 86B-5 86B-5 86B-5 4

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

NAME				
HISTORIC	Nottingham-Myers Ch	arge		
AND/OR COMMON	Myers U.M. Church			
LOCATION	V			
STREET & NUMBER	Croom Road (Mary	land Route 382	)	
CITY, TOWN	Naylor	VICINITY OF Croom	congressional dis Four	
STATE	Maryland		COUNTY Prin	ce Georges
CLASSIFIC	CATION			
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CONDITION

XEXCELLENT

\_\_FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_RUINS
\_\_UNEXPOSED

\_\_UNALT

**CHECK ONE** 

\_\_UNALTERED

CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE 1879

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Myers U.M. Church stands 50' from the south side of Croom Rd.

about 3 miles before you reach Naylor. The original chapel

was destroyed in the 1950's. The present Italianate church

was erected in that era. The small church is handsome and I

have included potographs of it.

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	HECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
—PREHISTORIC —1400-1499 —1500-1599 —1600-1699 —1700-1799	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC  AGRICULTURE  ARCHITECTURE  ART	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC	X RELIGION  SCIENCE SCULPTURE X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN  THEATER
1800-1899 X 1900-	COMMERCECOMMUNICATIONS	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENTINDUSTRY	PHILOSOPHY _X _POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	TRANSPORTATIONOTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1879

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This area of Prince George's county was the scene of much anti-black activity after the Civil War. The original church (built by ex-slaves) was a log cabin and was destroyed when Rte.382 was enlarged. A chapel was built on the site where Myers U.M. Church now stands in 1879. This small Methodist Church has survived the attacks of hostle white groups and politicians to become a vital rural congregation. Myer U.M. Church has had many different names, among them are Johnson's Chapel and Nottingham.

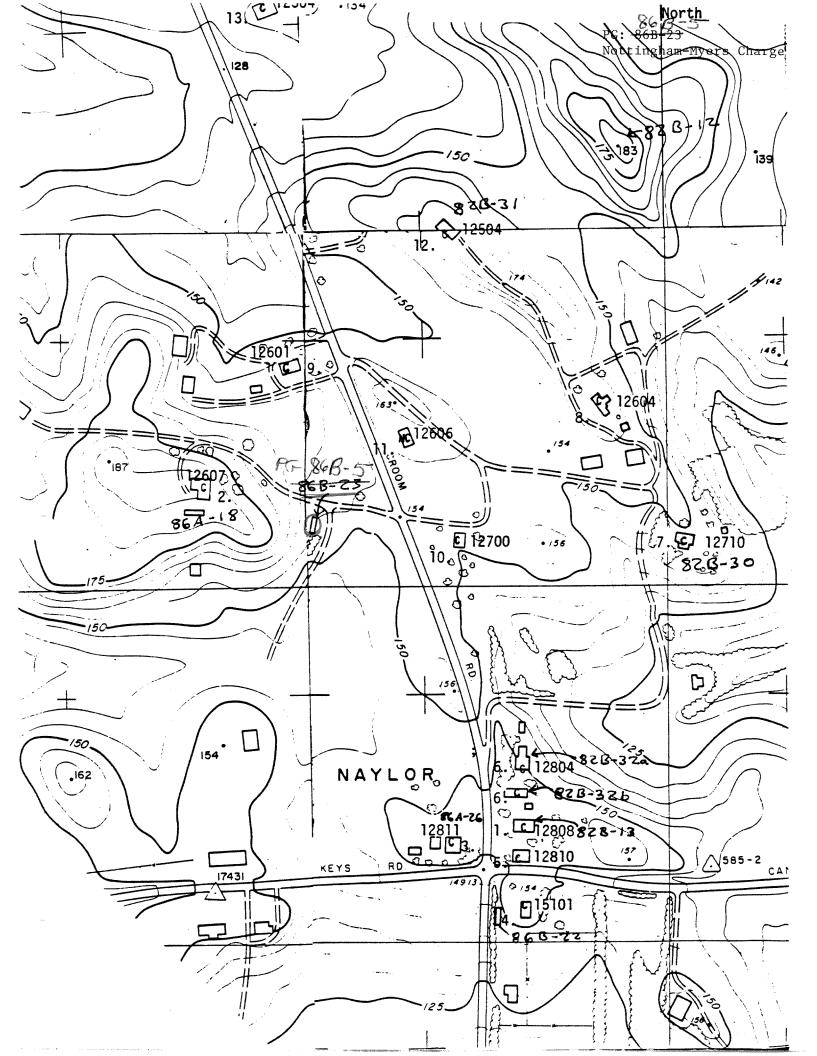
## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

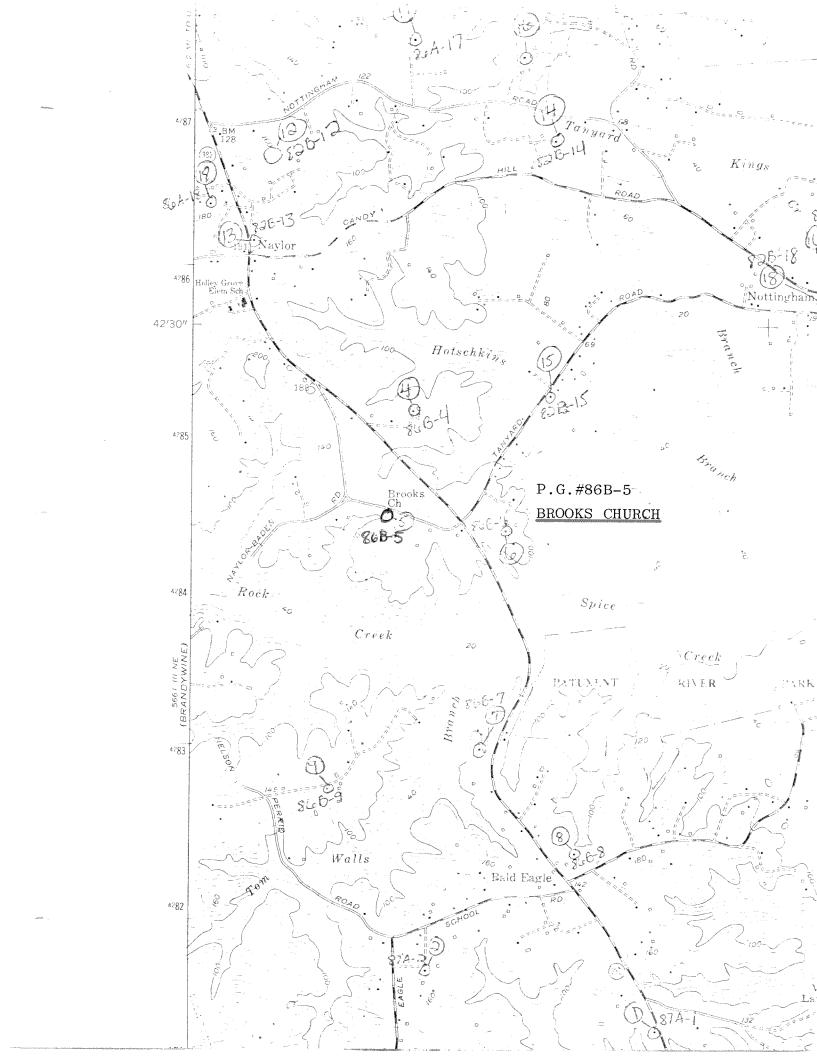
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA		
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY		
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION		
	an education establish mode-10	
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES		
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES	OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES	
STATE STATE	COUNTY	
STATE  STATE  STATE  FORM PREPARED BY	COUNTY  COUNTY	
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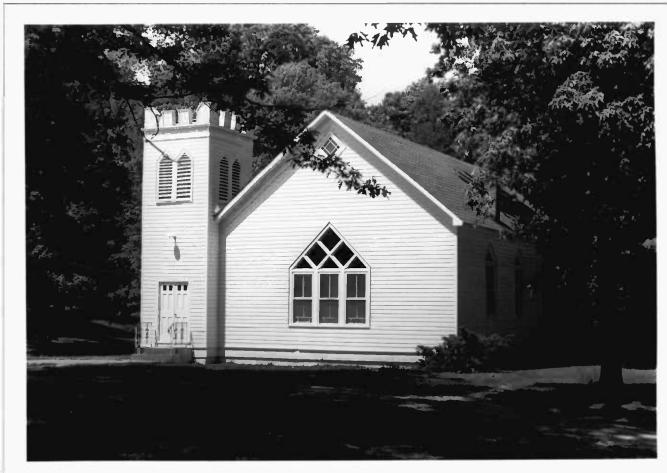
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438







Brooks-Myers Methodist Church Prince George's County, Md. Susan G. Pearl May 1983 East elevation Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



Brooks-Myers Methodist Church Prince George's County, Md. Susan G. Pearl May 1983 Southeast 3/4 elevation Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



Brooks-Myers Education Building Prince George's County, Md. Susan G. Pearl January 1983

West elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



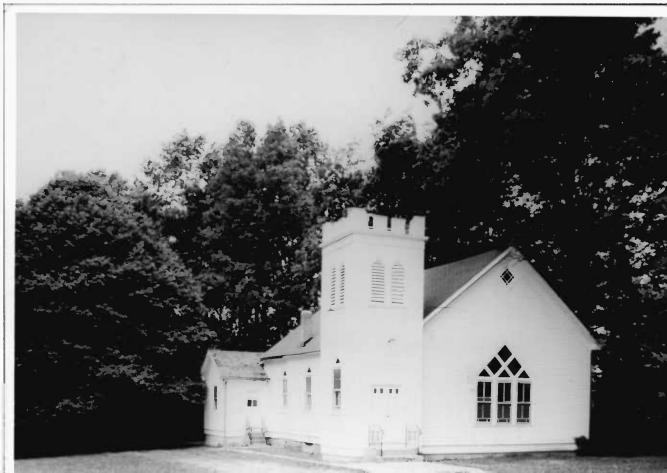
Brooks-Myers Cemetery Prince George's County, Md.

Susan G. Pearl

January 1983

View to Southwest

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG: 86B-5
Nottingham-Myers Charge
Naylor, Prince George's County, Maryland
Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD Northeast elevation 5/82



PG: 86B-5

Nottingham-Myers Charge PG86B-23 Naylor, Prince George's County, Maryland Michael Hosford

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD

North elevation

5/82



NAIVIE 8G:86B-5 BROOKS M.E. CHURCH LOCATION OLD NAYLOR - BADEN Rd NAYLOR, Md **EAC**ADE NE PHOTO TAKEN 9/5/74 MOWYER